



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch

Post Office Box 3755

Seattle, Washington 98124-3755

Telephone (206) 764-3495

ATTN: Anne Robinson, Project Manager

Public Notice Date: March 17, 2004

Expiration Date: April 17, 2004

Reference: 200400043

Name: WA State Dept. of Transportation

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for certain works described below and shown on the enclosed drawings.

APPLICANT – Washington State Department of Transportation

Gary R. Beeman, Environmental Program Manager

Post Office Box 12560

Yakima, Washington 98909-2560

Telephone: (509) 577-1750

LOCATION – In wetlands along State Route (SR) 240, that are adjacent to the Yakima River, in the City of Richland, Benton County, Washington. Located in Sections 13, 14, 24 and 25 of Township 9N and Range 28E, and in Section 30, Township 9N and Range 29 E.

WORK – Applicant proposes to fill 11.10 acres of emergent (PEM), shrub/scrub (PSS), and forested (PFO) wetland, as well as open water (PUB), to complete the expansion of SR 240 between Interstate (I) 182 and the Richland Y Interchange.

Permanent wetland impacts are as follows:

Wetland	Classification (acres)	Impacts	PFO	PSS	PEM	Open Water
A	PFO, PSS, PEM	3.2 ac	1.0	1.5	0.7	
B	PFO, PSS	0.1 ac	0.05	0.05		
C	PFO, PEM	0.5 ac	0.3		0.2	
D	PEM, PSS, Open water	7.3 ac		2.0	3.5	1.8
	Total	11.1 ac	1.35 ac	3.55 ac	4.4	1.8

PURPOSE – The purpose of the proposed widening project is to reduce existing traffic congestion and improve highway safety on SR 240 between I-182 and the Columbia Center Interchange.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Wetlands and riparian vegetation in this area are concentrated near the Yakima River and Columbia River because of hydrological effects due to fluctuations in the water level of Lake Wallula, caused by the McNary Dam. The SR 240 project bisects the Yakima River Delta Habitat Management Unit that is managed by, and will require use authorization from, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Walla Walla District. This project is a completion of the SR 240 improvement project, initiated under the Corps Permit #200200799 for the Yakima River Bridge replacement.

MITIGATION – For permanent impacts to 11.1 acres of wetlands, the applicant has proposed 26.2 acres of mitigation as follows:

- 1) Breach the causeway and construct a secondary bridge (125 foot long) south of the current Yakima River Bridge to promote floodplain and wildlife connectivity (14.7 acres).
- 2) Create and enhance degraded wetlands in the project area. (10.5 acres on east side of SR 240 causeway, and 1.0 acre at the new connectivity bridge).
- 3) Construct retaining walls along the westbound ramp at the Richland Y interchange to avoid open water and riparian impacts to the backwater of the Columbia River.

Proposed mitigation has been designed to replace functions and values lost in impacted wetlands, and have been designed to add connectivity for wildlife by breaching the causeway with a bridge. This new access will significantly increase habitat for larger species, provide additional access to the riparian area for all types of wildlife, and prevent car/wildlife incidents on the causeway. Copies of the proposed mitigation plan are available upon request.

ENDANGERED SPECIES – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the federal lead for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation on this project. The ESA of 1973, as amended, requires assessment of potential impacts to listed and proposed species. The Mid-Columbia River (MCR) Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) threatened, Upper-Columbia River (UCR) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) endangered, UCR Spring-run Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) endangered, Columbia River bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) threatened, and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) threatened in the State of Washington (State) occur in the proposed project area. For MCR steelhead, UCR spring-run Chinook, and UCR steelhead critical habitat has been designated. The FHWA, as the lead agency for ESA consultation, consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as required under Section 7 of the ESA. On January 20, 2004, USFWS determined that the project 'may affect, is not likely to adversely affect' bald eagle or bull trout. On December 23, 2003, NMFS determined that the project may affect, is not likely to adversely affect' MCR and UCR steelhead and UCR Spring-run Chinook. ESA consultation has been completed.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT - The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). EFH for Pacific salmon occurs in the project area. The proposed action would impact approximately 1 acre of EFH for these species. The FHWA, as the lead agency for a determination regarding EFH, has consulted with NMFS. NMFS determined that the conservation measures that FHWA included as part of the proposed action to address ESA concerns are also adequate to avoid, minimize or otherwise offset potential adverse effects to designated EFH species. NMFS has determined that project would have 'no adverse effect'.

CULTURAL RESOURCES - The FHWA, as the lead agency for determining compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, provided a cultural resources survey and completed consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as appropriate. The FHWA determined that there would be no historic properties affected.

The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Federal, Native American Nations or tribal governments, State, and local agencies, historical and archeological societies, and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

PUBLIC HEARING - Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION - The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity, on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, Native American Nations or tribal governments, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

The evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. This evaluation will include an alternatives analysis.

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION - The State is reviewing this work for compliance with the applicable State and Federal water quality standards pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD - Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to authorize this proposal. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. All e-mail comments should be sent to *Anne.M.Robinson@usace.army.mil*. Conventional mail comments should be sent ATTN: Regulatory Branch. Both conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commentator's name, address, and phone number. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. Please include the following name and reference number:

Washington State Dept of Transportation, 200400043

Encl
Drawings (6)

Reference: 200400043

Applicant: WA State Dept of Transportation

Propose: Increase capacity of highway and improve safety

Location: SR 240 I-182 to Columbia Center Boulevard

County: Benton State: WA

Sheet of 6 Date: 3/15/04

BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

CITY
OF
RICHLAND

BEGIN PROJECT
SR 240 MP 36.50

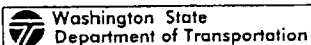
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SR 240 MP 38.90

CITY
OF
PASCO

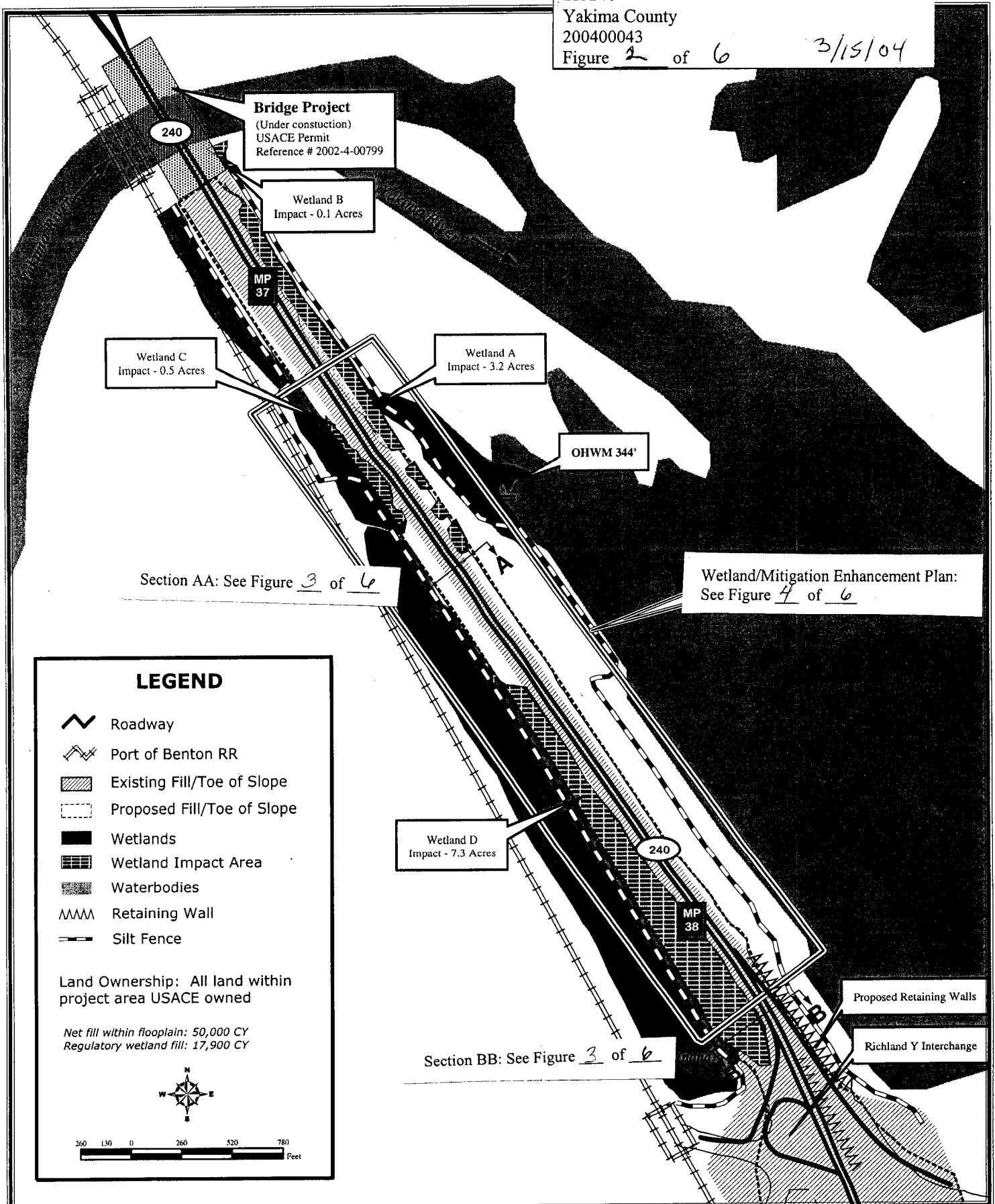
CITY
OF
KENNEWICK

0 2000 4000
SCALE IN FEET

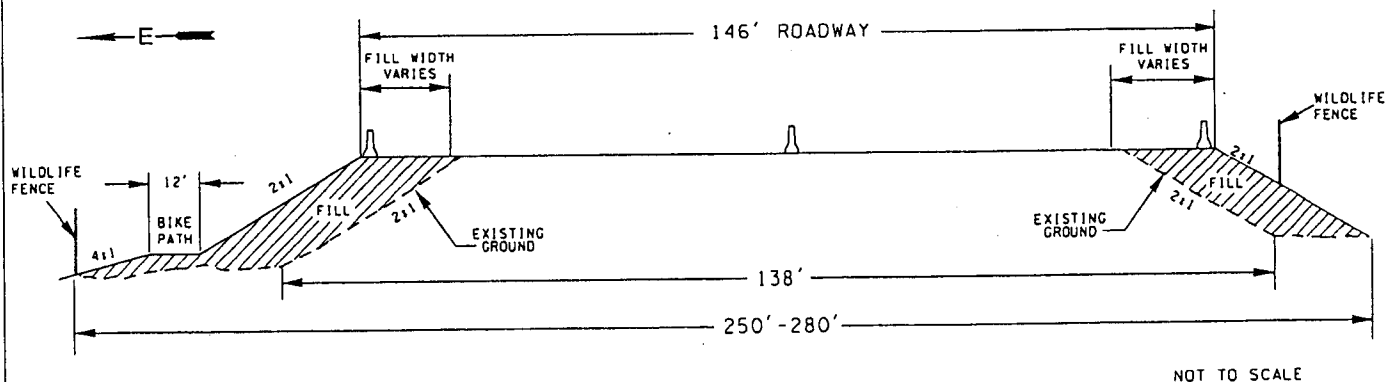
SR 240, I-182 to Columbia Center Boulevard
VICINITY MAP



Proposed: Expand existing 4 traffic lanes to 6 lanes.
Purpose: Increase capacity of highway & improve safety.
Sheet: 6

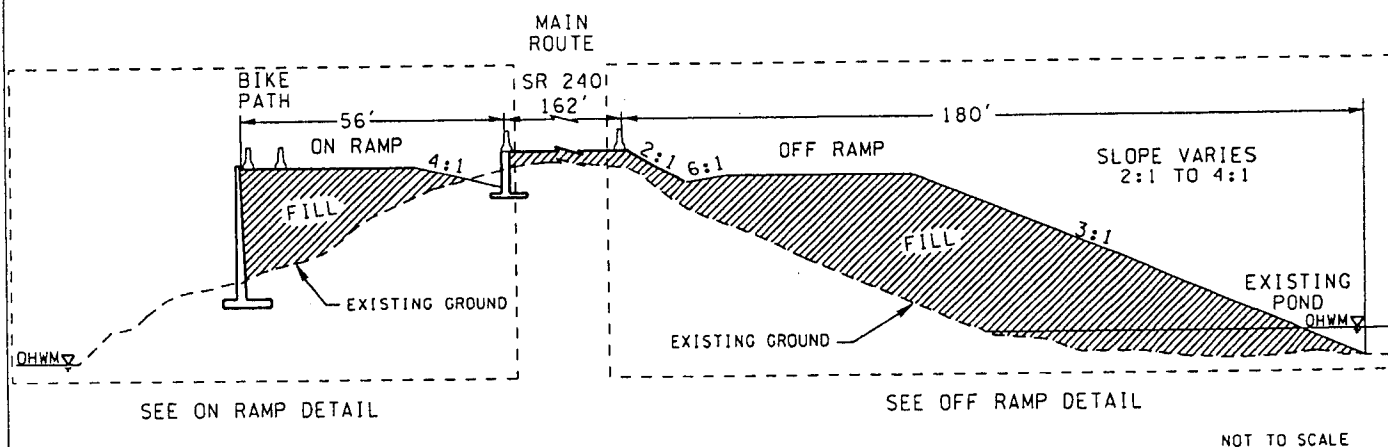


3/15/04



NOTE: STORMWATER INFILTRATION
ON ALL FILL SLOPES

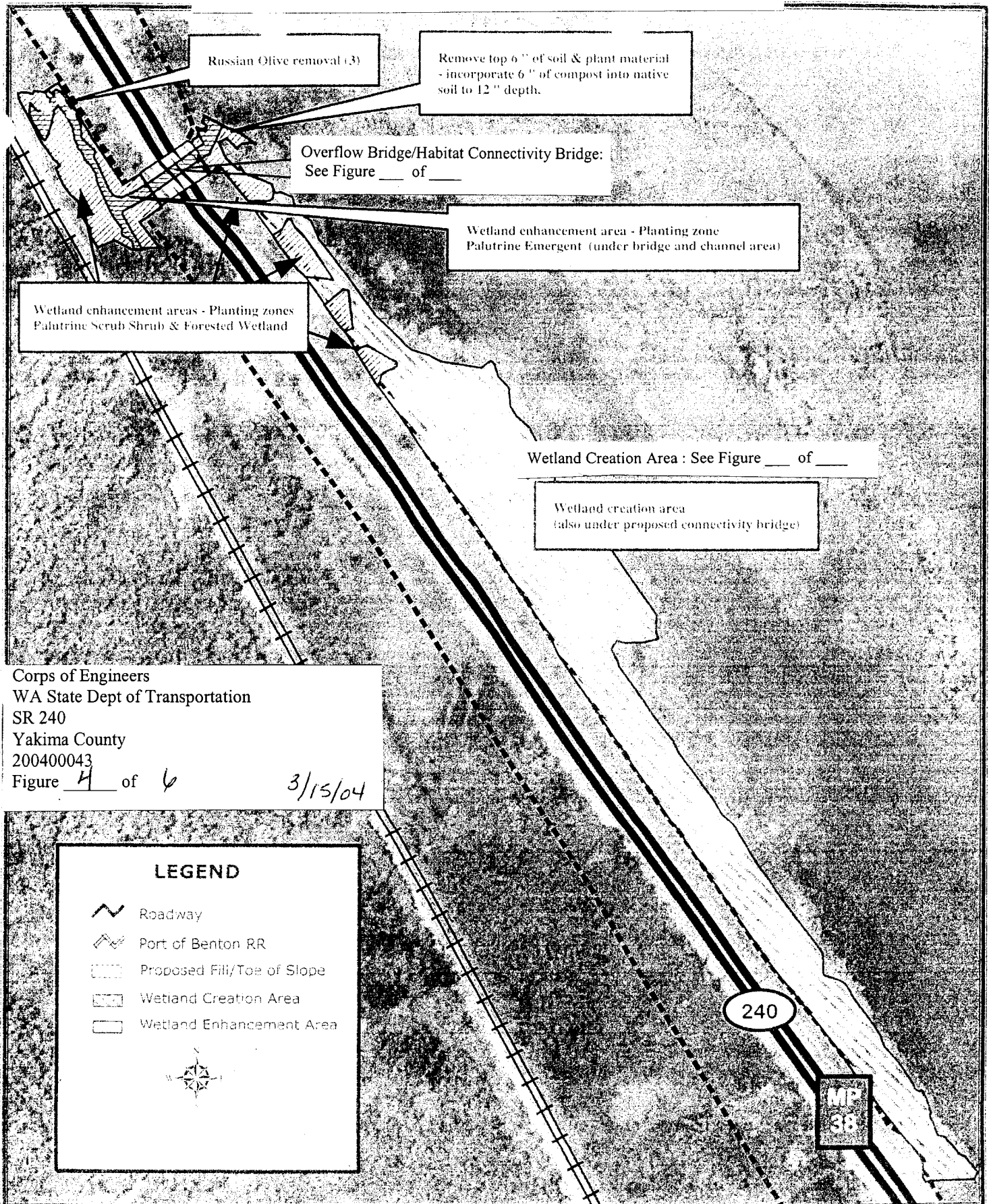
ROADWAY SECTION AA



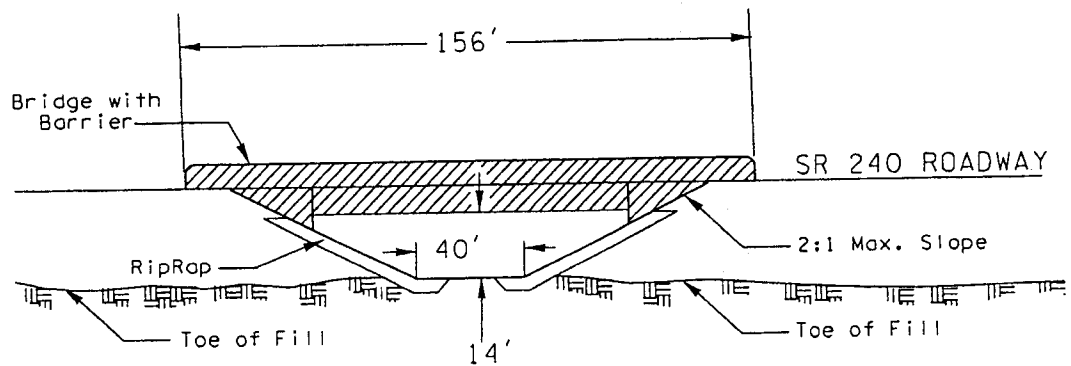
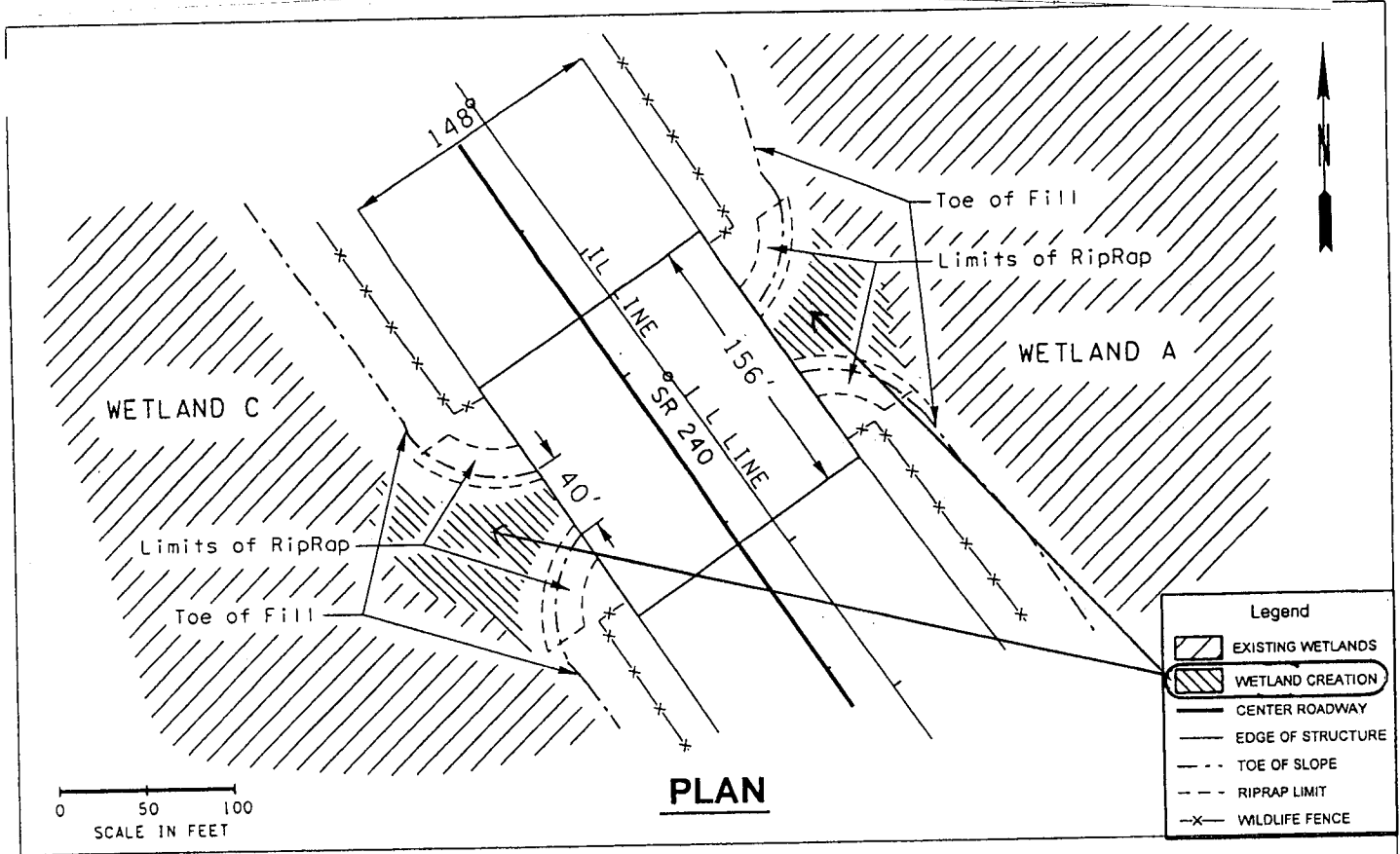
NOTE: STORMWATER INFILTRATION
ON ALL FILL SLOPES

ROADWAY SECTION BB

Proposed Wetland Mitigation and Enhancement Plan
For Reference Only
See: SR 240 I-82 to Richland Y: Wetland Mitigation Plan



3/15/04



**SR 240, I-182 to Columbia Center Boulevard
Overflow Bridge**

Proposed Wetland Mitigation and Enhancement Plan
 For Reference Only
 See: SR 240 I-82 to Richland Y: Wetland Mitigation Plan

Corps of Engineers
 WA State Dept of Transportation
 SR 240
 Yakima County
 200400043
 Figure 6 of 6
 3/15/04

WETLAND MITIGATION SITE TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

PLANTING ZONES

UPLAND ZONE
 NATIVE SHRUBS & GRASS SEED MIX

**PALUSTRINE SCRUB SHRUB & FORESTED WETLAND
 CREATION

EXISTING GROUND SURFACE
 ELEVATION 351 TO 349 FT NAVD

1% TO 2% SLOPE TO RIVER, TYPICAL

BIKE PATH

12 IN. LAYER
 COMPOST AMENDED
 NATIVE SOILS

APPROXIMATELY 80' - 300' (BASED ON AN UNDULATING SHORELINE)

NOT TO SCALE

100 YEAR WATER SURFACE ELEVATION
 356.5 FT (NAVD 1988)

* DELINEATED WETLAND BOUNDARY
 349 FT (NAVD 1988)

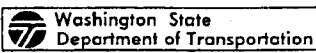
OHWM

* HIGH WATER 344 FT
 (NAVD 1988)

* LOW WATER 340 FT
 (NAVD 1988)

YAKIMA RIVER
 & FRINGING WETLANDS

SR 240, I-182 to Columbia Center Boulevard
 Wetland Mitigation Site Section



Proposed: Expand existing 4 traffic lanes
 to 6 lanes.
 Purpose: Increase capacity of highway &
 improve safety.
 Sheet: [redacted]



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification

Date: 03/17/04

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. 200400043 will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to compliance with water pollution control laws may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600